

**Hom, Fong**

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**From:** Ellie Greenwood [Ellie@missoulahousing.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** Hom, Fong  
**Subject:** Oversight Committee MDC 1:30 Monday August 20

Hello. I am the coordinator of a self sufficiency program funded by HUD administered by MHA (Missoula Housing Authority). I basically work with Public Housing residents on all aspects of self sufficiency using an empowerment model that advocates for extremely low income people to have their rights as citizens acknowledged as they make their way along the continuum of self sufficiency. I was hoping to make it to Helena today for the public comment at the Oversight Committee meeting this afternoon regarding MCD. Unfortunately I wasn't able to. So I am going to provide my comment to the committee via email:

I work with a very low income woman (64) whose young adult daughter (20) is currently being treated at MCD. Her daughter was in residence at MCD from January to June , was then released back to her mother—but is now back again.

I am very concerned about the fact that during her first 6 months at the center, the staff and administrators responded to my requests for assistance with transportation with curt and at times rude and uncaring replies or no response at all. The mother, is also mildly delayed but extremely functional and has done her best to keep her daughter safe for 20 years. She has been a good mother. All along the assumption was that mother and daughter would reunite. Unfortunately, the center felt that it was not their responsibility or priority to include visits between mom and daughter as part of treatment. After exhausting all the community resources we were aware of and could access for transportation—we finally wrote to MDC and asked for financial assistance to pay for a bus ticket for mom to visit and were basically told, NOPE. It's not our job to facilitate transportation no matter how low income you are.

To the committee I would like to suggest: If we are going to continue to provide \$770 dollars per day to a treatment facility located in a rural hard to get to area, for patients who are sometimes low income, without considering the impact of the long term treatment goals of family reunification (which in this case was anything but successful) then perhaps we need to budget in transportation money or move these treatment facilities to more accessible places where bus transportation is affordable and where extremely low income people can actually visit their loved ones while they are in treatment.

If I were at the hearing today, I would say a lot more and be more specific with the names of the people who I interacted with and the dates and the content of those conversations, however, I know it's awkward reading emails aloud so I will keep my statements brief, but let it be understood that if I were a patient at MDC, or a family member, and I were treated with the rudeness that I was treated with as a community provider/organizer working to empower a family—I would not want another penny of my taxes to go to this treatment facility.

Please read this statement aloud during the comment period and please let committee member know I am available for further comment.

Ellie Greenwood

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